

April 1, 2004

Thomas M. Gray, M.S., D.A.B.T.
Senior Toxicologist
The American Petroleum Institute
Petroleum HPV Testing Group
1220 L. Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-4070

Dear Dr. Gray:

The Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics is transmitting EPA's comments on the test plan for Reclaimed Petroleum Hydrocarbons Category posted on the ChemRTK HPV Challenge Program Web site on November 20, 2003. I commend the American Petroleum Institute Petroleum HPV Testing Group for its commitment to the HPV Challenge Program.

EPA reviews test plans and robust summaries to determine whether the reported data and test plans will provide the data necessary to adequately characterize each SIDS endpoint. On its Challenge Web site, EPA has provided guidance for determining the adequacy of data and preparing test plans used to prioritize chemicals for further work.

EPA will post this letter and the enclosed comments on the HPV Challenge Web site within the next few days. As noted in the comments, we ask that the American Petroleum Institute advise the Agency, within 60 days of this posting on the Web site, of any modifications to its submission. Please send any electronic revisions or comments to the following e-mail addresses: oppt.ncic@epa.gov and chem.rtk@epa.gov.

If you have any questions about this response, please contact Richard Hefter, Chief of the HPV Chemicals Branch, at 202-564-7649. Submit questions about the HPV Challenge Program through the "Contact Us" link on the HPV Challenge Program Web site pages or through the TSCA Assistance Information Service (TSCA Hotline) at (202) 554-1404. The TSCA Hotline can also be reached by e-mail at tsca-hotline@epa.gov.

I thank you for your submission and look forward to your continued participation in the HPV Challenge Program.

Sincerely,

-S-

Oscar Hernandez, Director
Risk Assessment Division

Enclosure

cc: W. Penberthy
M. E. Weber

**EPA Comments on Chemical RTK HPV Challenge Submission:
Reclaimed Petroleum Hydrocarbons**

Summary of EPA Comments

The sponsor, The American Petroleum Institute, Petroleum HPV Testing Group, submitted a test plan to EPA for Reclaimed Petroleum Hydrocarbons dated October 3, 2003. EPA posted the submission on the ChemRTK HPV Challenge Web site on November 20, 2003.

EPA has reviewed this submission and has reached the following conclusions:

1. Category Justification. The diverse materials identified in this submission do not represent a category as defined in the EPA guidance document on developing categories in the HPV Challenge Program (<http://www.epa.gov/chemrtk/categuid.htm>).
2. HPV Endpoint Evaluation. The submitter appears to describe an approach that will be used in a future submission. EPA agrees conceptually with assessing complex mixtures (in this case, the diverse materials identified as reclaimed waste streams) by examining data on components of that mixture (in this case, petroleum streams that are in other HPV submissions and are somehow related to the reclaimed waste streams). However, this requires that a comparison of the compositions be made between the reclaimed waste streams and the appropriate petroleum stream(s) so that the HPV endpoints can be adequately characterized. This is inferred but not done in the submission. Until this type of characterization and comparison is done, the adequacy of the data assigned for each endpoint cannot be determined.

EPA requests that the submitter advise the Agency within 60 days of any modifications to its submission.